

PRSRF STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937

CLIP AND SAVE!

Important Telephone Numbers

ConnPACE	1-800-423-5026
Medicare Hotline	1-800-633-4227
CT Partnership for Long-Term Care	1-800-547-3443
Elderly Services Division of the Department of Social Services	1-800-994-9422
Medicare Advocacy	1-800-262-4414
Connecticut Legal Assistance	1-800-413-7796
New Car “Lemons”	1-860-713-6120
Consumer Protection	1-800-842-2649
Tax Department	1-800-382-9463
Unclaimed Property Hotline	1-800-833-7318



77th District



Legislative Office Building

Room 4053

Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Please Keep in Touch

485 Farmington Avenue

Bristol, CT 06010

Home: (860) 582-6838

Capitol: (860) 240-8585 or

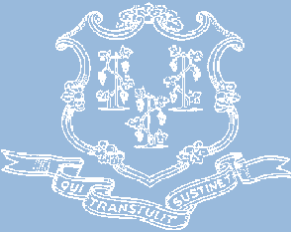
Toll-free: 1-800-842-8267

www.ct.gov/hdo

State Budget

Below is a chart that shows the state dollars approved in the 2005-2006 state budget for the City of Bristol.

<u>Grants 05-06</u>	<u>FY 05-06</u>
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$77,077
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$870,342
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$927,445
Town Aid Roads	\$336,861
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$493,760
Public School Transportation	\$688,779
Non-Public School Transportation	\$175,590
Adult Education	\$226,427
Educational Cost Sharing	\$35,166,433
Total State Aid	\$38,962,715



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROGER B.
MICHELE

77TH DISTRICT • BRISTOL

Capitol News
2005

Working for Bristol

Dear Neighbors:

The 2005 legislative session was a significant advance for Connecticut's people. The legislature set goals with our constituents and communities in mind. We met our goals, and through a balanced vision of state government, our people and our state will benefit from initiatives that expand opportunities, help those who require it, and allow families and individuals to flourish.

It has been an honor to serve this session as House Chair of the Select Committee on Veterans Affairs. Addressing the concerns of veterans and active military is a top priority for all of us, and I am proud to say that this session we have enacted legislation that will help assist those who serve our country so well.

In this newsletter, I have highlighted various legislation that the General Assembly passed this year. Included are summaries of legislation that affect veterans and seniors, as well as news about education issues.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice your concerns at the State Capitol. It is an honor to represent you.

As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

State Representative
77th General Assembly District

Veterans' Affairs

TUITION BREAKS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED IN CONNECTICUT

Designed to boost access to higher education opportunities for enlisted soldiers, the General Assembly passed legislation that streamlines the process by which active military duty personnel stationed in Connecticut may qualify for in-state tuition. The new law, effective July 1, allows immediate access to this valuable benefit at the University of Connecticut, the Connecticut State University system or Connecticut's community-technical college system. In the past, military personnel stationed here were required to establish Connecticut residency - a process that takes up to a year. (Public Act 05-110)



PROTECTING TROOPS FROM DEPLETED URANIUM

There has been growing concern from the veteran community, especially from those who have served in the Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom, regarding the health effects of exposure to depleted uranium. The state will help eligible guardsmen and veterans get properly tested, if there is reason to believe the personnel have had exposure to depleted uranium.

To further study the effects of exposure to depleted uranium and other hazardous materials, the General Assembly created a Hazardous Material Task Force. The charge of the task force is to study the effects of exposure to hazardous materials, create a registry of personnel that may have been exposed since 1990, develop a plan of outreach, and prepare a report for service members who may have been exposed. (Public Act 05-3)



MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND

Making ends meet for our military families can be difficult while a spouse is serving on active duty. To help alleviate these difficulties, the Military Department will be setting up a Military Family Relief Fund. This fund will be awarded to military families, who are having trouble paying for such routine items as clothes, school supplies, baby-sitting, and transportation.

The fund will be created with a state grant and taxpayer income tax check-off contributions. Families will apply for a grant and will be notified within seven days of their eligibility. The Military Department is also responsible for reporting back to the General Assembly every year on the number of applications received, number awarded, amount awarded, and any additional recommendations. (Public Act 05-3)

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR THOSE STATIONED IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The state has granted municipalities the ability to waive any interest on property tax bills if the resident or spouse has been called to active duty in either the war in Afghanistan or Iraq. If your town decides to enact this provision, and you or your spouse are on active duty when the final tax bill is due, you have a year to make the payment without incurring any penalty. This is just a method for the state to accommodate and show appreciation for our servicemen and women. (Public Act 05-3)

DESIGNATING THE F4U CORSAIR AS THE STATE AIRCRAFT

This act designates the F4U Corsair as the state aircraft. It requires the governor to proclaim May 29 of each year as Corsair Day to commemorate the first flight of the F4U Corsair and to honor the achievement of Connecticut workers at United Aircraft, Pratt and Whitney, Hamilton Standard, and the Vought-Sikorsky companies for producing this aircraft--the one major combat aircraft of World War II that was the product of a single state. It requires that suitable exercises be held in the State Capitol and other places the governor designates to commemorate the day. (Public Act 05-49)

Senior Issues

KEEPING SENIORS MOBILE

Beginning this year, the Department of Social Services will help fund a public-private partnership that provides an on-demand independent transportation network to serve Connecticut's seniors. Four towns with populations over 25,000 or their local nonprofit agency will be eligible to receive up to \$25,000 to develop a financially self-sustaining, community-based transportation system through private donations and user fees. Volunteer and paid drivers must be utilized in a manner that closely follows a successful national model that provides independent transportation for seniors. (Public Act 05-280)



PHARMACY OUTREACH PROGRAM

A Pharmacy Outreach Program was created to provide information about reduced and free prescription drug programs. Administered by the pharmaceutical manufacturers and overseen by the Department of Social Services, a toll-free telephone number and website will help qualified state residents obtain reduced or no-cost medicine from participating manufacturers and will educate residents about programs available in Connecticut. (Public Act 05-269)



Update on Connecticut's Sex Offender Registry - Megan's Law

I, as your state representative, have been involved with the state sex offender registry for many years. This year, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, I am working with House Speaker Jim Amann, the Chairs of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committees, Attorney General Blumenthal and Chief State's Attorney Morano to institute reforms designed to strengthen Connecticut's sex offender registry. These leaders held a press conference this summer to announce the reforms they are advocating:

- Placing more resources and manpower in the state's sex offender registry unit to boost enforcement and monitor probation and parole.
- Granting the Department of Correction the power to register sex offenders prior to release. Registration should include a photograph, fingerprinting and a DNA sample.
- Requiring sex offenders who make a legal name change to report the change to the state's registry.
- Requiring a convicted sex offender from another jurisdiction to register immediately with Public Safety.
- Tightening reporting requirements for sex offenders who are homeless or who list a P.O. Box as an address.
- Investing in electronic location monitor systems (satellite tracking).
- Placing Connecticut's registry on the national on-line registry of sex offenders.
- Incarcerating permanently the most violent sex offenders.

To make better use of the information and to enhance the communication of that information, prosecutors, police and probation officers need more resources. It is intended that the closing of existing "loopholes" can help prevent these horrendous crimes, and thus reduce the billions of dollars and other costs related to dealing with the traumatic aftermath of child sexual abuse.

I believe that Connecticut's sex offender registry is an important public safety tool. Known as Megan's Law, it is named after 8-year-old Megan from New Jersey, who was killed by a sex offender living near her home. Following the tragedy, Connecticut passed legislation mandating that a list of sex offenders be made available to the public.

